(b) if so, when the petition was filed and admitted;

(c) whether hearings in the case are over and a judgement has been delivered; and

(d) the stand of the petitioners and Government's stand in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Writ Petition dated 4.1.1999 was filed in the Supreme Court and admitted for hearing on 1.6.1999.

(c) The hearings have been completed and the judgement is kept reserved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(d) The Petitioners mainly challenged the constitutional validity of the Scheme on the plea that:

(i) it was violative of Article 14 of the Constitution (Right to Equality) as it gave discretionary power to an MP to use this fund without any proper checks and balances, monitoring and accountability;

(ii) the money is withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of India for implementation of the MPLAD scheme which is violative of the provisions of constitution;

(iii) expenditure incurred under the scheme is outside the purview of any law established by Parliament; and

(iv) the MPs have unlimited powers for allocating funds which amounts to corrupt practices.

The Government pleaded that neither the scheme is ultra virus of the constitution nor arbitrary, since implementation is done on the basis of a set of guidelines. There is also no conflict of legislative or executive powers and no office of profit is involved, as under the MPLAD Scheme, MPs only recommend the works based on the felt needs of the local community and the execution including expenditure is carried out by the Government machinery.

**Cost and time over run in major projects**

3524. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of top 200 major projects under implementations have over run cost and time schedule;

(b) if so, the details of projects delayed by more than six months and cost escalated by more than 25 percent with reasons therefor;

(c) whether any responsibilities have been fixed for delays and cost over run; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As on 30th September, 2009, out of top 200 central sector major projects in terms of their anticipated cost, on the monitor of the Ministry, 44 projects have both time and cost overruns.

(b) Out of 44 projects with time and cost overruns, 24 projects have reported delay of six months and more and have cost overrun of 25% or more. Sector-wise number of projects is given below:

| Sl. No. | Sector Name | No. of Projects |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Coal | 2 |
| 2 | Steel | 1 |
| 3 | Petroleum | 7 |
| 4 | Power | 6 |
| 5 | Railways | 7 |
| 6 | Water Resources | 1 |
| | TOTAL | 24 |

The main reasons for cost and time overruns include; delay in land acquisition, delay in procurement of equipment, law and order problems, inadequate infrastructure, delay in mobilization by contractors, general cost escalation due to delay, increase in prices of cement and steel and exchange rate variation.

(c) and (d) The mechanism of Standing Committee in the Ministries identifies reasons for time and cost overruns and agencies/individual responsible for delay and cost overruns. The recommendations of the Committee are implemented by the Ministries concerned which inter alia submit Action Taken Report along with the revised cost estimates for approval of the Cabinet.

**Expenditure on food and non-food items in rural and urban areas**

3525. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state the real expenditure in rupees on food and non-food items in rural and urban areas as on 30th September, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): As per latest NSS, survey on "Household Consumer Expenditure in India", conducted during July 2006-June 2007, the monthly per capita expenditure in rupees on food and non-food items in rural and urban areas in 2006-07 at all-India level is given below: